(a) whether Government has received a proposal from abroad for setting up of an international university in the country;

(b) whether Government is considering any proposal, *suo moto*, to establish a foreign university in the country, to supplement and upgrade arrangements and standards respectively for university education; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, a South Asian University is being set up for member countries of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), with campuses in all SAARC members countries.

Higher education to SC and ST women

1433.SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated and executed for imparting higher education to SC and ST women; and

(b) the number of SC and ST women benefited from those schemes and how many of them have become self-reliant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) All schemes of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for imparting quality higher education aim at enhancing access of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (STs) including women belonging to these sections of the population. According to UGC's 11 Plan Report, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of SC women is 3.16% and ST women is 5.57%.

Literacy in States and UTs

1434.SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of literacy in different States and Union Territories of the country;

(b) the number of students between 6 to 14 years at present, who do not attend schools;

(c) the status of drop-outs in different States and Union Territories; and

(d) the plan of Government to bring drop-outs to zero-point, and the achievement made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The literacy data in the country is collected through decennial census operation conducted by Registrar General of India. A Statement indicating State-wise literacy rate as per the last census held in 2001 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).